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**Statement of Ireland**

**43rd session of the UPR Working Group**

Review of Botswana

**3 May 2023**

**Narrative**

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Botswana and thanks it for its presentation.

Ireland acknowledges Botswana’s efforts to advance human rights domestically since the last UPR cycle.

We welcome Botswana’s signing of the 2030 Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitment to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights outcomes among young people.

Ireland is concerned about high levels of violence against women and children. We also regret the continued use of the death penalty.

**Recommendations**

Ireland recommends Botswana:

1. Strengthen the legal frameworks to protect women and children against violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, including by criminalising marital rape and reviewing and amending the Domestic Violence Act to bring it into line with international human rights law.
2. Abolish the death penalty in law and in practice, including by declaring an official moratorium, ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and commuting existing death sentences.

We wish Botswana every success in this UPR cycle. Thank you.